



Dyslexia
Matters

Premium Specialist
Teacher Programme

Course Outline

Background:

Liz and Julia, Directors, were asked to create a Premium Course that reflected their 'ultimate dream' for a specialist teacher course that went over and above the requirements of the qualification. Liz and Julia applied the same principles, standards, and approach as when they founded a specialist school for learners with dyslexia which went on to achieve outstanding results to create this Premium Course for a limited number of candidates.

This **Premium Course** will suit candidates who, as well as wanting to achieve the specialist teacher qualification:

- Work best collaboratively with colleagues and a course leader, discussing new concepts and ideas.
- Benefit from additional examples such as case studies to broaden the scope of their experience and discussing qualified specialist teachers' practice.
- Know that having regular meetings to discuss coursework with everyone participating at the same point, helps them maintain momentum and motivation.
- Want to set the qualification in the context of the wider role of specialist teacher. These candidates will welcome opportunities to explore different settings for learners with dyslexia.
- Would like to explore setting up as an independent practitioner, with practical guidance
- Would like to explore how the role of Specialist Teacher within an educational setting can be enhanced by auditing and setting targets for the whole establishment. The programme also provides practical resources that can be used after qualifying, devised, tried, and tested by the Dyslexia Matters' team.
- Are interested in the role of motivation in the learning process



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Study at a time to suit you.

The course content offers an interactive experience, delivered through pre-recorded:

- Reading materials/resources,
- Lectures,
- PowerPoints with voice-overs,
- Demonstration lessons and
- Cartoons.

All elements are available at any time of night or day, giving you the flexibility to study when you can, at your own pace.

You are welcome to repeat any elements to consolidate your understanding.

Practical

Units 2 – 4 are focused on the practical elements of being a specialist teacher. Unit 1 is more theory-based but consists of written assignments, rather than essays. This hands-on, experiential programme produces practitioners who are welcomed into educational settings for what they achieve with learners.

Portfolio documentation

Well organised and clear documentation provide clarity about progressing through the course:

- 'portfolio sheets',
- 'step by step guides' and
- 'timelines'.



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Guidance templates

Explicit and accessible templates and/or advice sheets are provided for every assignment to organise and structure your work, with clear expectations.

Dyslexia Matters informal assessment kit

Dyslexia Matters has devised their own informal assessments materials to ensure breadth and quality of the assessment process

Best practice activities

Practical activities are provided to embed your new skills before embarking on your assessed assignments with your two learners.

Tutor support

You will experience a high level of tutor support from approachable, experienced practitioners. Each tutor supports a small number of candidates and will provide high quality, targeted guidance.



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Additional weekly interactive webinar programme during term time

Introductory webinar

An opportunity to meet your fellow candidates on the Premium course who you will be working with directly in future webinar sessions. You will receive guidance on getting started and a chance to share your experiences in this field to date.

Coursework

After completing your Unit 1 theory-based assignments many of the weekly webinars will focus on discussions around coursework. The course leader will

- Explore the topic(s) of the day e.g. Single Word Reading
 - Ensure candidates have in-depth understanding and skills
 - Enable candidates to discuss practice activities with colleagues
 - Lead Question and Answer Sessions
 - Advise candidates about next steps
 - Talk through any barriers to progress that have arisen
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Case Studies

The webinar programme will include a range of additional case studies following the course elements covered in the teaching portfolio, extending your knowledge to include other key stages.



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Teaching observation and discussion

During the webinar programme, candidates will be able to watch a range of pre-recorded teaching sessions. They will discuss best practice and methods with the specialist teacher leading the intervention.

Meet the Head of a specialist school

As a part of the webinar programme, candidates will virtually meet the Head Teacher of a Specialist School for learners with dyslexia and related difficulties at regular intervals for talks and discussions. You will experience:

- Walkabouts to see teaching environments
 - Learn about daily organisation in the setting
 - The practicalities of providing a bespoke education for learners with dyslexia
 - Share regular updates and insights from the Head Teacher throughout the year
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Meet the Head of a Specialist Teaching and Assessment Centre

Another element of the webinar programme is virtually meeting the Head of a specialist centre for learners with dyslexia and other specific learning differences, where learners from up to 50 different schools and settings are supported via outreach or direct teaching. Find out more about this setting in the discussion that follows.

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Setting up as an Independent Practitioner

Towards the end of the webinar programme, find out about the skills needed to set yourself up as an independent practitioner



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Supporting settings: internally and externally

Also towards the end of the webinar programme, you will be offered a range of practical support and advice, using our own audit and targeting materials. You will be able to support your setting to achieve the Dyslexia Quality Mark Award from Dyslexia Matters.

Motivating learners with special educational needs

As you prepare for becoming a qualified specialist teacher, the webinar programme will include an exploration of the impact of motivation and how it can be optimised for our learners.

Post-qualification resources and systems

And in the final stages of the programme, you will be prepared for the moment when you qualify and need to have practical and realistic systems in place to manage your commitments as a Specialist Teacher by having access to Dyslexia Matters' resources and systems.

Start Date: September & April

Price: £3,960 (Inc. VAT)

Limited places available.